

Abstract

Allelic variation in the vex2, pep27 and vncS genes of bacteria responsible for tolerance to antibiotics such as penicillin and vancomycin, is taught. Methods for identifying antibiotic tolerant bacteria and subjects infected with such bacteria,

5 particularly antibiotic tolerant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, are provided. Test kits and components useful for performing such methods, particularly including oligonucleotide primers, are also provided.

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